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Docket No.: APA-0215
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Yasuhide OTSU et al.

Application No.: 10/507,326

Confirmation No.: 4008

Filed: September 10, 2004

Art Unit: 1725

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PROCESSING BRITTLE MATERIAL**

Examiner: S. M. Heinrich

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 9, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16, with traverse.

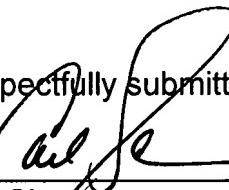
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search or the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Dated: April 4, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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